



THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA POSITION PAPER

The Garden Club of America supports independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research as the basis for formulating responsible public policy and legislation, as well as appropriate funding to ensure quality results. The Garden Club of America is a nonpartisan, issue-oriented advocate for a beautiful, healthy planet.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Garden Club of America (GCA) recognizes the threat of climate change and the urgent need for action at all levels of government, as well as individual behavioral change. The observed changes in climate are negatively impacting plants and human health. Rapid loss of biodiversity, species extinction, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, extreme weather events, and the health of public lands are at risk if we do not address this trend.

Because individual and collective action can modify the course of climate change, the GCA is committed to educating club members and communities about the impacts of climate change on natural systems and constructive responses to mitigate the effects.

The Garden Club of America supports federal, state, and local legislation, policy, and individual action that address the following:

FUNDING

- Support funding measures to protect biodiversity.
- Encourage the allocation of resources for peer-reviewed, scientific research and data collection to inform action at all levels of society to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Support increased public and private funding to address the increased incidence of plant disease, the spread of invasive species, and the disruption of relationships between plants and pollinators.

LEGISLATION, REGULATION, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Encourage collective action at all levels of society to address a changing climate and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support the protection of sustainable forest and wilderness areas, including national parks, as these open lands sequester carbon, help ensure clean air, and protect watersheds.
- Promote the creation and protection of coastal wetlands, mangroves, salt marshes, seagrasses, and other aquatic vegetation that efficiently sequester carbon and improve water quality.
- Promote clean energy sources for the construction, manufacturing, and transportation sectors and support continued innovation in the development of clean energy systems and advanced battery storage.
- Encourage initiatives to advance energy efficiency in buildings.
- Support efforts to reduce methane gas emissions from the oil, natural gas, and agricultural industries.

ADAPTATION

- Support climate adaptation strategies for human, animal, and plant communities.
- Encourage the increased use of native plants in public and private restoration projects along transportation corridors, including the use of green buffers and living shorelines.

- Encourage the production of adequate native plant material to meet this growing need.
- Support water management initiatives to ensure water quality, address flooding, and sea-level rise and manage drought.

EDUCATION

- Encourage ongoing educational efforts focused on the impacts of climate change, including changes in hardiness zones, phenology, migratory patterns, and crop yield.
- Promote sustainable landscape design and adaptive gardening practices.
- Promote the importance of locally-sourced food and the reduction of food waste, as well as the value of regenerative agriculture to soil health.